canadian camping

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NEWS

AND VIEWS

FROM ACROSS CANADA

Ontario

The O.C.A. is in the process of launching a very definite, deliberate campaign to bring non-members into the association. Part of this involves the use of individuals to "woo" present non-member camps. A Past Presidents' council has been formed to discuss long range trends in camping and in the association.

Future events:

Executive Development Workshop - Jan. 10
Annual Conference - March 3-6
Annual Meeting - April 5
Counsellor's Conference - May 14

New Brunswick

Although some people still feel threatened, priority is once again being given to work on Standards. The government has been very helpful in giving grants to camps - but such grants are only given if a camp is a member of the N.B.C.A.

Quebec

A somewhat scary proposal is now being made by the Department of Labour...Waterfronts in camps may not be deeper than six feet!!!

Another highlight in Quebec is that they have formed a very active Day Camp Standards Committee.

Nova Scotia

George Matthews is pleased to report that Cape Breton is becoming more involved in camping.... The Department of Recreation has recently given a grant of $3,600.00 to the N.S.C.A.... The Youth Hostel Association, Canoe Nova Scotia and the N.S.C.A. are combining certain forces to jointly hire a programme development director.

Newfoundland and Labrador

There has been an upswing in the number of camps being formed .... the most active groups being the Y.M.-Y.W.C.A., the Salvation Army and the Pentacostal Church. In addition to this more sites are being used by outside groups.

Executive meetings are moving out of Barbara Taylor's kitchen and in to larger quarters, since all executive meetings are now open to anyone with in the Newfoundland and Labrador Association. A great deal of interest has already been expressed.

There's a concern in Newfoundland (shared by every other province) about

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A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Communicating with friends is one of the benefits of this very special time of year. We on the executive of the C.C.A. send our greetings to all of you! May the joy of the season reside in your hearts all through 1977.

Your Task Force on the goals of the C.C.A. is looking to the past to plan for the future. If any of you, the camping people of C.C.A., have a point of view on trends or directions or services, drop me a note at the camping office.

May you all have the wind at your backs through the coming New Year.

Good Camping,
Ron Johnstone
President

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TAYLOR STATTEN MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP

Announcement is made of the Taylor Statten Memorial Fellowship, annual value of $1,000. open to applicants from any Canadian university and tenable at any university considered appropriate for the fellow.

The award has been established to assist post-baccalaureate study in any professional field or career related to youth services, such as, but not restricted to, physical and health education, psychology, teaching, the ministry, and social work.

Applications for the award must be submitted before March 1 of the year in which application is made and application forms should be accompanied by a transcript of University record. Applicants are also responsible for ensuring that three letters of recommendation reach the Committee before March 1: at least two of these should be written by university teachers with whom the applicant has studied. Selection will be made by the Taylor Statten Memorial Fund Committee. Only candidates under the age of 25 will be considered.

Further information regarding the award and application forms can be secured in January from:

The Office of Student Awards
Room 107
Simcoe Hall
University of Toronto
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A1
(416) 978-2183

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AMERICAN CAMPING ASSOCIATION

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference is being held in Buffalo, N.Y., February 15-18, 1977. The organizers hope that many members of the C.C.A. will attend.

Kindred Group meetings are to be held on the opening day of the Convention and if enough are interested in attending, this could be arranged. The opening Session starts at 8:00 P.M. Tuesday the 15th, an International Festival night is planned for the Free programme night on Wednesday, and many interesting Workshops and Seminars are being held. Registration forms and further information can be obtained at the C.C.A. office.

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The C.C A. is proud of two of its members who are participating in another American Camping Association conference, this time the Mid-America Convention, March 8-12 in Dearborn, Michigan. Grant McKeen of Vancouver is leading a session entitled "Camping as Therapy", and John Gullick of Toronto will be discussing "Camping for Children with Special Needs". Good luck, gentlemen!

CANOE SCHOOLS

by Cliff. Labbett
C.R.C.A.

In 1976, the Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association took over the operation of the Canoe Instructors Schools which were founded in 1967, by Professors Kirk Wipper of the University of Toronto, and Claude Cousineau of the University of Ottawa. This modest beginning at the University of Ottawa's camp site near Gracefield, Quebec has now blossomed into six schools across Canada. In its first year of operation the C.R.C.A. has endeavored to carry on the fine traditions set during the years 1967 to 1975, and we feel that we have succeeded.

The Atlantic School was held at Camp Kadimah, near Bridgewater, N.S. for the period June 11-20, and operated under the direction of Walter Crotty of St. John's, Nfld., 25 students attended; 10 attained their instructors certificates; 14, their assistant instructors; and 1, a letter of attendance.

Briefly summarizing the results from the other schools across Canada: with 41 students attending the French language school at Gracefield, 28 received their instructors; 11, the assistant instructors and there were two letters of attendance. During early August an English school was held, also at Gracefield, out of the 30 who attended, 13 attained instructors, 11, the assistants, 5 got letters of attendance, and one did not complete the course. The Ontario School at Camp Kandalore, was overwhelmed with applications, and with an attendance of 44 students gave out 12 instructors, 27 assistant instructors, and 6 letters. The Mid-West School near Kenora gave 9 instructor certificates, 11 assistants and 4 letters to 24 students; while at the Western School near Calgary, there were 25 candidates who received 12 instructors, 10 assistants and 8 letters. 1 failed to complete the course.

Excellent feed-back was received from both staff and students concerning the quality of the courses. Some thought it was not long enough, but a longer course would greatly increase the cost. Basically the content of the course is good, if there is a fault, it is perhaps that the course goes beyond what some of the students expected, and a few were not as technically advanced as they should have been. Maybe the literature outlining the course should have been more specific regarding the the knowledge and ability the candidates should have to take the course.

There is no doubt a person who leaves one of the schools with either an instructors or an assistant instructors badge is highly qualified in the skills and knowledge of canoeing.

The six schools will be operating again in the summer of 1977. The exact dates are yet to be finalized. Anyone interested in applying should contact one of the school directors or write to:

Mr. Clifford Labbett
3 Pine Forest Road
Toronto, Ontario

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And that's why we walk behind the child. He feels your protection when you walk behind. If you give him a chance to go in any direction, he may be wrong when he goes this way or that. If it's a dead-end, pick him up gently and bring him to the main route. But never think that you know the answer, because you are dealing with an individual who may want to go very different routes, which for him, may be better. That's why I feel more comfortable behind the children so I can see where they are going.

by Jeanne Simons
Camp Towhee
Haliburton, Ont.
(submitted by Stan Wild)

News and Views (cont. from page 1)

the number of drownings in canoe accidents. Such accidents are due, not only to inexperienced people; cold weather and water; but above all, to the poor quality of canoes sold extensively in super markets. There is also a great concern about the quality of some of the approved P.F.Ds. as well as the fact that there is not a wide variety of such approved P.F.Ds. The C.C.A. is giving these concerns a great deal of consideration.

Manitoba

A Government grant was given to many students who were employed in M.C.A. camps. ($46,000.00).... The President has indicated a renewed leadership programme in rural areas. The government has purchased six camps, but they have also given new lands to old camps. This was done in conjunction with the Land Acquisition Branch and the Recreation Branch of the Manitoba Government.

Brian Law has just completed a contract with the Canadian Association for the Mentally Retarded and reports that integration of retarded children into "normal" camp situations is extremely successful.

The Provincial Government offered to pay the salary of a Standards visitor this past summer. (Jim Legitt)

The M.C.A. regrets the departure of paat president Marvin Wall, Marvin has moved to Edmonton to work with Youth for Christ. In fact, a few other executive members have changed provinces. Jim King has just finished a course at Outward Bound and is now looking for a job in Alberta. Larry Austman has become Director of Camp Chief Hector in Alberta. Pay Freyers has left the Winnipeg Recreation Department and is headed for the Calgary Recreation Department.

Saskatchewan

Very deepest thanks on behalf of the Board of Directors of the C.C.A. to the great hosts in Saskatchewan during the recent C.C.A. meetings in Saskatoon. As usual, very hospitable, friendly and fun!

The government is now offering assistance to help some camps in their winterizing programmes.

As in one or two other provinces, Government grants are not given to camps which are not accredited by the S.C.A. Those involved in the visitation must go through a training programme prior to the summer.

British Columbia

Here's a real switch. The B.C. Association has been asked to operate an in-service training programme for those inspectors hired by the Department of Health who will be visiting camps. The B.C.C.A. is also involved in drafting a Camp Director Certification Programme. Regional colleges and universities will offer this course.

Alberta

Annual Conference of the Alberta Camping Association to be held February 4-6, 1977 at Camp He-Ho-Ha.... Highlighting Land Management and "Play" (Children at Play, Staff at Play). For information contact Don Vosbergh.

The Alberta Association is happy to report that their "Director's Guide for Counsellor Training" should be off the press in the New Year. Also available in the future will be a "Practical Guide to Hebertism", for through the Department of Recreation and Parks, three camps were given funds in 1976 to set up Hebertism courses, the Guide results from their experiences.

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"Canadian Camping" is published 6 times a year.

Subscription Rates:

$5.00 - 1 year; $12.00 - 3 years

C.C.A. membership includes subscription

C A M P I N S U R A N C E

How Well Are You Covered? by W. Grant Kerr

(reprinted with Mr. Kerr's permission from his article in a United Church publication (Spring 1976) entitled "Church Camping".)

CAMPING as a business is unlike any other business and thus its insurance needs and problems are unique. One uncovered loss could result in disaster and thus many years of financial sacrifice and hard work, which have gone into the building of a successful camp operation, could be jeopardized and the entire project be lost through inadequate insurance coverage.

Not everyone understands the complexities of insurance: it would be very helpful, therefore, if the camp committee or owner included in its membership someone who actually worked in the insurance area, or was knowledgeable regarding it. Such a person could take the necessary time to become thoroughly familiar with the entire camp operation and thus be in a position to advise on an adequate insurance programme. This is too important a matter to be left to chance, and so periodic review of insurance carried is an important agenda item for every camp committee.

Premium costs for insurance coverage will vary from camp to camp, depending on the scope of the coverage, the type and condition of buildings, etc., but in any case all such costs should be considered part of the necessary operational budget and taken into consideration in setting camp fees.

Some of the following guidelines might be helpful in determining the coverage you should be carrying.

1. Some Provinces have mandatory provisions relative to a camper's protection: obtain from government or insurance sources any information relative to such provisions. Make a survey of the camp's insurance needs without reference to what you may now be carrying; try to be clear on what you ought to have.
2. Investigate a number of possible insurers re. the types of insurance they can provide, the rates, and how suitable any "package" deal might be for your camp.
3. Write insurance specifications for your camp (the insurance person on your committee can be very helpful here) and then submit them to a number of insurance companies for advice and recommendations.
4. Compare the coverages offered by the various companies, then select the one which provides the best protection in the areas you have determined as important for your camp. Discuss your total insurance needs with this company and have them design a package specifically suited to your camp.
5. Evaluate your insurance programme annually, or at least every three years, since many policies are on a three year basis. Many camps have good policies which were adequate a number of years ago, but in the intervening years, buildings have been torn down, new ones built, additional equiment has been secured, and perhaps most important of all, inflation has made the amounts originally set as replacement values seem almost unbelievable in the light of today's prices.

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6. Be sure to keep accurate records of your insurance business. Premuim due dates, amounts covered on the various items, renewal dates, payments made, any claims that had to be made. Such records will enable the camp to make comparisons of value, experience, etc., to guide future insurance planning. It might also point to areas of camp life that need checking, if a number of claims originate for similar reasons. Hazards of whatever kind could be discovered and steps taken to eliminate them.

The following list indicates a number of types of coverage that are important and deserve attention.

Liability

Liability insurance is now considered to be the most essential part of a camping insurance program. Not too long ago many non-profit camps - and particularly church camps - were looked upon as having immunity from lawsuits and were granted immunity in certain provinces. However, our neighbors in the United States can testify that large amounts of money have been awarded to individuals as a result of lawsuits brought against both agency and independent camps because of negligence. Insurance is to protect you against what might happen... and one of the things that might happen is that you could be sued, should there be an accident causing bodily injury or death.

Fire Insurance is also an important part of the liability insurance portfolio. There are two main factors here: (a) bodily injury liability and, (2) property damage liability. It is recommended that a camp carry not less than $200,000 for bodily injury and $20,000 for property damge. Frankly, it would be better still to carry $500,000 on bodily injury. Some camps are even carrying liability insurance that gives coverage up to one million dollars. Many insurance companies are not too anxious to write insurance for camps, and those that do keep a wary eye on this business. When planning day camps, or travel camps, it is particularly important to get insurance quotations, since these are sometimes quite high and could seriously affect your fee structure.

Most of the general camp activities are covered in the per-camper per day chargees, as scheduled under the liability policy. Specific items scheduled on the policy other than the camper days will include rowboats, canoes, power-driven boats, motors, sailboats, malpractice and products coverage, and horses. Products coverage, for example, protects the camp if an individual is stricken with food poisoning. Malpractice coverage protects one against suits for treatment given by doctors and nurses in the camp's employ (or for whose services the camp is responsible). Continguent malpractice covers the latter case where the doctors or nurses are not directly employed by your camp.

One other point to keep in mind regarding liability is to make sure your staff are covered as well as your campers and camp. All it takes is to have a phrase in the appropriate place on the policy to indicate that staff are included.... but if it is not there you cannot assume that they are actually covered by your policy.

Automobile Liability

It is imperative that high limits of liability be carried on camp vehicles. The American Camping Association recommends a minimum of $100,000 up to a maximum of $5,000,000 for camp vehicle coverage.

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Any vehicles used in transporting campers have excessive exposures. In the event of an accident where negligence is involved, the awards could run into millions of dollars. In addition, a comprehensive form should be used for both non-owned and hired vehicles. For example, a staff member using his or her vehicle in transporting campers or performing other services for the camp, can be held responsible in the event of negligence. Actually, the vehicle should be designated as a camp vehicle when used for the transportation of campers and staff. (Non-owned automobile policy) If you lease your grounds to outside groups, for example, and these groups wish to use your vehicles for transportation, this should not be allowed unless you determine that your organization or incorporated body which actually owns the property which your camp is own, is totally protected in case of mishap. The auto policies are generally in your organization's name and coverage would not extend to an outside group even though your permission might have been given. It is also important to insist on a Certificate of Insurance from a leasing firm when hiring or leasing vehicles.... and this applies in most provinces.

Comprehensive insurance for vehicles includes fire, theft, windstorm, vandalism, glass breakage, plus other risks. It appears that some companies will not write full comprehensive insurance on vehicles over ten years of age, but fire and theft can be written in. Furthermore, if these vehicles are used only during the camp season, the period of insurance need only be such as to cover them when in actual use.

Fire Insurance

Insurance companies are somewhat apprehensive about writing fire insurance on camps. Some of the reasons for this are obvious; camps are usually located in remote areas, well beyond the territory covered by any local Fire Department: should a fire start, the fire trucks cannot arrive in time to be of much help - even if they can get there at all. This is especially true in the winter-time. When securing your insurance it is best to have all buildings on the property covered; in fact, most companies are reluctant to write insurance for just the dining hall or lodge, they mush prefer a greater spread of coverage.

There are things which can be done to help reduce the rates charged for fire insurance, or keep the exposure charges to a minimum. These include:

a. In some provinces rates will be substantially reduced if there is a full-caretaker on the property.
b. The use of approved fire-resistant roofing material on new buildings will also help reduce rates.
c. Adequate distance between structures will help eliminate exposure charges.
d. Provide adequate fire extinguishers in all buildings.

Camp properties should be re-appraised at least every three years. This will be of considerable help when, or if, a fire should occur. Many camp policies are written on a 90% co-insurance basis, which means that the policy should cover at least 90% of the actual value of the camp. If a 90% co-insurance clause is written and the camp value is under this percentage, the camp becomes a co-insurer and could suffer a financial loss in the event of a serious fire.

In some cases, vandalism and malicious mischief can be added to the fire insurance contract.

Make sure that your insurance company does not charge you the annual rate if your camp is only open for half of the year. You will, however, want to have some insurance for the whole year to protect against vandalism, fire, or other damage during the winter months.

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Miscellaneous Coverages

Coverage can be secured in today's market for the following:

Cargo insurance - covers contents of trucks and is usually needed only when the value of goods being transported is high.

Outboard Motor Boat Policy - to cover loss of boats used by camps. Generally, an all risk form is written, but specific peril is also available.

Theft insurance - generally better for camps than burglary insurance because forcible entry does not need to be proved to prove a loss.

Personal Effects of campers - not much used, since not too much of great value is brought to camp by either staff or campers.

Volunteer Worker Coverage - this type of policy is generally limited to accident or accidental death coverage for volunteers working on the campsite. However, this could cover both pre and post camp repair or construction workers. Some of the provinces require that volunteer workers be covered also by Workmen's Compensation. This should be investigated prior to the use of volunteers. This is a rather grey area with both governments and insur nce people. Some provinces have held that such volunteers are eligible for compensation benefits and hence must be covered. It is wise to check with the Workmen's Compensation Board in your particular area regarding their policy with respect to volunteer workers.

TIME FOR A CHANGE

The C.C.A. needs a new Logo.... something which symbolizes and represents Canadian Camping on a National basis. We are therefore pleased to announce a contest to seek out a new Logo which can be used on letterhead, brochures, and which could perhaps be adapted to integrate with Provincial Logos.... or Provincial Letterhead.

The Contest is open to anyone in Canada who is or has been involved with an ACCREDITED camp... camper, C.I.T., Staff Member. Individuals who are now currently making their living in the commercial art field, or in teaching art are prohibited from entering the contest.

The design should be submitted NO LATER THAN MARCH 15, 1977, to the C.C.A. office.

The winner will receive a cheque for $50.00 which will be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association, to be held in Squamish, B.C., next April... All expenses paid to and from Squamish!!!

It is hoped that every Camp Director will consider involving campers and staff in this exciting project and contest.

Classified Ads

C A M P D I R E C T O R with 7 years experience, is seeking a full time position. For resume and further details, please write:

Mr John Gullick
24 Mabelle Avenue
Apt. 1517
Toronto, M9A 4A7
(416) 233-4346

W A N T E D

Camp Director and Swim Director

for a Day Camp on Lake Simcoe

June 15 to August 30
(approximately)

For information please call:

221-5491 (days)
444-6172 (evenings)

Hints on Winter Camping

by John Beedell
Bark Lake Camp
Leadership Centre

Why Go Winter Camping?

1. The Indian and the Eskimo lived with the land, and it is interesting to gain some

2. It is a natural extension of our summer camping but we are substituting our mode of travel. Instead of canoeing or back packing, we are skiing, snowshoeing or hiking to our destination.

3. It is a challenge - most people associated with the outdoors like a challenge.

Equipment

1. Sleeping Bags

I consider this to be one area where you must spend a little money. You should be thinking of $100 to $150 if you don't have a summer weight down bag. If you do own a summer down bag then you can purchase a bag such as a Black Icelandic Special or Woods Mount Whitney ($65. - $100.), place your summer down bag inside and be reasonably prepared for 15° below 0° F.

Because of the loft of the down, air is captured and provides insulation, except for the part of your bag under your body. Since your weight compresses the down, it offers little insulation. To counteract this you must have a closed cell foam such as Enrolite or Blaxlite ½" or 1.25 cm thick. These will cost from $5. to $10. depending on type.

How to Use Sleeping Bags

a) The loft or height that the down can sit usually determines the amount of air it will hold and this trapped air insulates you. As mentioned above you must compensate with insulation for the bottom of your bag. With this in mind you should shake your sleeping bag before you climb in. A sheet insert gives a little more warmth and also separates you from cold nylon. Cotton bags are liable to breathe better than nylon and not so liable to hold moisture. Nylon bags are easier to maintain. You must decide which you prefer.

b) Always place zippers on alternate sides so that air leakage is minimal and make sure the inside zipper flap is hanging down over the zipper.

c) The advice for sleeping bags, that "the colder it gets the more you take off", seems crazy but it is quite logical. If the central heating in your house can't keep up with the leakage, you have a cold house; similarly, if you keep clothes on in the sleeping bag, soon you will have a cold place to sleep.

d) Other hints: Tie bags at the top around your neck - the outer one first. Wear a toque and keep your head out of the bag. Your moist breath will soon require all your calories to change moisture into water vapour.

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Removing your clothes while conserving body heat is an art in itself and each person has to find out how to do this in a sleeping bag. I tend to wear only a pair of socks and short underwear - sometimes a T-shirt. My outer coat is usually under legs and feet on top of my pack because the foam is usually shorter than body length (24" x 28"). All other clothing is inserted between the two bags, except if it is wet. I would rather have it freeze than freeze me. I leave my boots outside too. Dry anything the night before if possible.

Added hints - don't drink too much before bed and go and urinate before you decide to turn in.

2. Clothing and Footwear

The most essential part of winter clothing is that it capture insulating air and this usually means layers of clothing. Most people have a few sweaters, a couple of pairs of loose fitting pants, some long underwear, and a long sleeved shirt and some type of jacket (preferably a parka) that comes below the hips. With this combination you can usually face a Canadian winter.

The feet require a little more care and I recommend either the moccains with rubber bottoms with two or three pairs of socks or if you can buy the boots big enough, you can insert a snowmobile liner inside for maximum warmth. (Take an extra pair of liners along just as you do socks - they get damp from perspiration just as socks do.) Snowmobile boots are good but heavy for walking. The essential thing is to have your feet dry and not too tightly compressed in your footwear.

Your hands are best covered with mitts (a woolen mitt inside a leather mitt). Add a toque for your head and you are ready to face the winter blasts.

Extras in this department are string underwear (2 pieces about $17. - $18.) but you must wear long underwear over it. String underwear seems to prevent sweating and does keep you warmer by trapping and holding air.

How to Use your Clothing

As I have mentioned the biggest fear is sweating (other than frostbite of the extremities) and if you can control this you will remain warm. If you plan an immediate activity remove some of your clothing and put it back on when you stop the activity. If you wear a T-shirt next to the skin and it becomes damp, change it rather than thinking it will dry.

3. Cooking Equipment

I have found a nesting set of pots which sells for about $25. - $30. to be satisfactory in winter. You must remember that you require a few more pots than in summer because of the melting of snow for water. (If you are near water however, chop a hole through the ice. Start with a three foot diameter hole and chop down. As soon as you pierce the bottom of the ice, the water will flow up to ice level.)

Remember to empty all pots of liquids and do your dishes after each meal. I tend to soap the outside of the pots and leave them black, just cleaning the insides, while I'm staying at a campsite.

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4. Food and Utensils

If your don't mind weight and you want to eat cheaply you can use canned goods and dry foods such as soup, spaghetti, macaroni, etc. You will have to thaw the tins out before you use them, since the contents are hard to remove. Taking off both ends of the tin will help. Most fruits with sugar syrup tend to have a lower freezing point and are easier to remove. Dehydrated food is good and light to carry but the recommended soaking period can have its problems. Don't take bottles, they will freeze. Use as many things dry as possible i.e. milk powder, tea, coffee, or oatmeal. Limit your dishes to a bowl or plate, a cup and a spoon. People soon realize you can have your soup in a cup and later your dessert followed by your beverage. Have the people on dishwashing put the water on as soon as a pot is available and this will speed up the meal time.

Sanitation and Toilet Areas

The ground is hard in winter and you can't dig a hole. Choose a place that won't drain into rivers or lakes and dig a hole in the snow. A clump of evergreens, because it will break the wind, will make an excellent toilet area.

Unused food should be placed in the same areas, Animals of the forest will soon clean up this portion of the waste.

5. Shelters

Many of the shelters used in summer, are adaptable in winter use. Tents help break the wind and do warm up a bit. The problems that arise are usually due to condensation build-up inside and the difficulty of pegging them in the snow.

Adequate venting helps cut down condensation build-up. Some tents have a double roof which allows moisture to pass through the first layer and it is vented out from the second roof.

By packing down the snow, and leaving it for half an hour, it will harden when the temperature is low. You can then place long pegs or sticks in the firm snow but don't tighten your tent cords too much. Using a rope between two trees for the peak of your tent will also increase your chances of having it stay up. Poles will go down in snow until they hit frozen earth unless they have a wide bottom.

Digging into snow drifts, if they are big enough, can produce good results. Pick one on the side of a cliff. Always remember to put your entrance lower than your floor if possible or cold air will pour into the sleeping area. Also you should poke a few vent holes in the top for fresh air. Adequate insulation on the floor such as straw or evergreens will prevent moisture getting the bedding wet.

Plastic shelters are another way that cheap cover can be made. Rope is usually required to hold these up. Condensation build-up is quite high in this shelter but they are light and easy to carry.

6. Transportation of Equipment

Usually you find that in winter you will have more equipment than in summer. Double sleeping bags, underpads, etc., although light, still take up room. Also you eat more food and carry more clothes.

Regular toboggans can be fitted with a wooden box so that packs won't drag. Care

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must be taken not to make the load top heavy. A fan of ropes can be put on to allow two or three people to pull the toboggan.

7. Winter Activities

There are many activities that make winter camping enjoyable but one of them is not sitting around relaxing. The word is activity and plenty of it.

If you feel cold - move - Indian wrestle with yourself or someone else. Getting fire-wood has a two fold purpose; it keeps you warm while you are sawing, chopping or breaking it and it keeps you warm later when you burn it.

Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing both can be used for reaching the camping area and for a later activity such as exploration or keeping warm.

Climbing can be very adventuresome and great fun. Children love to work their way up a slope and then by controlled sliding or leaping go down the hill. Care should be used in picking out a slope because even minor avalanches can be dangerous and can smother a person.

In the world of nature, new areas open up. Rabbits, deer, foxes, etc., can all be followed to their feeding areas and lairs. Winter birds are often sighted. Deciduous trees can still be identified by their bark and buds. There are many nature books that give illustrations. Many lichens can be seen on trees, rocks, etc. and used as survival foods if you are interested in that aspect of camping.

Ice fishing can be tried but find out about local regulations as to whether a lake can be fished and what types of fish can be caught.

Common sense is the greatest asset a camper can have in either winter or summer. By using common sense and planning, winter camping can be every bit a enjoyable as summer. Start slowly, however, and test your equipment in an area close to civilization. The back yard would be a good place to start on your new adventure in camping. If it is successful, then the whole outdoors is open to you.

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